

# BODY PARAGRAPHS

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In the  
RESEARCH PAPER

# CLAIM

Seventy-three percent of all test takers, including prospective graduate students and teachers agree that most students cheat at some point. Eighty-six percent of high school students would agree (ETS 1999). In the past, cheaters were primarily failing students, but more and more average and high achievers have become part of the issue. The pressure to get good grades with scholarship money and college acceptance at stake, more students are doing whatever it takes to make it. While cheating is a serious issue, often times it is the result of high stakes testing and unrealistic expectations. **If schools wish to get a handle on cheating, they must first find a way to place a stronger emphasis on learning than grades and testing outcomes, reminding us that students are under more pressure and stress to succeed than ever before.**

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**REASON**

Write one or two sentences  
stating why the thesis  
statement is true.

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\_\_\_\_\_ attempt to control a potential public  
embarrassment after uncovering large-scale  
cheating.

## TRANSITION

Introduce your evidence.

What is the context/  
circumstance of the  
evidence that follows?

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In cases of student misconduct, it is always important to consider punishment appropriate and fitting to the crime. A school in Ohio overreaches their authority in an attempt to control a potential public embarrassment after uncovering large-scale cheating. **School officials responded by canceling graduation ceremonies.**

## **EVIDENCE**

**Give a specific example,  
quote, statistic, data, etc.  
Make sure you have its  
source cited directly  
afterwards in parenthesis.**

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**“Centerburg High...is one of the state’s top schools, with an ‘excellent’ academic rating last year, according to the State Department of Education” (School Cancels Graduation 88).**



## WARRANT

Explain why or how your evidence above is significant. You must connect your facts with your reasoning. This answers the question of *so what*.

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In cases of student misconduct, it is always important to consider punishment appropriate and fitting to the crime. A school in Ohio over-reaches their authority in an attempt to control a potential public embarrassment after uncovering large-scale cheating. School officials responded by canceling graduation ceremonies. "Centerburg High...is one of the state's top schools, with an 'excellent' academic rating last year, according to the State Department of Education" (School Cancels Graduation 88). **This surely is a point of pride for the school district and community, but it begs the question of whether the punishment is wholly deserved in light of national statistics of rampant cheating in all high schools and colleges. The issue of cheating is so widespread that it has become far more acceptable. In this particular case, the school is reacting to the embarrassment rather than the actions itself.**

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Introduce the quote, author, or work. What is the context/circumstance of the evidence that follows?

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How does this piece of evidence relate to the reason stated at the beginning of the paragraph AND to the first piece of evidence? What further backing does this evidence show?

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